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FLYERS FALL FLAT IN JERSEY {page 25}

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PHILADELPHIA
Monday, May 7, 2012

DREW HALLOWELL/GETTY IMAGES

- Sixers beat shorthanded Bulls 89-82 to take 3-1 series lead
- Holiday, Hawes lead the way in Game 4
- Team heads to Chicago with chance to close it out {page 24}

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Vice president stumbles into gay rights fight

- Joe Biden comments taken to signal support for same-sex marriage
- Then he walks 'em back
- Still evolving? {page 08}

Avengers break box office record

Inside the superhero flick that made $200 million this weekend {pages 16-17}

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Duck boat saga goes on

The victims' families describe their anguish as a civil trial begins today Litigation is expected to take years as Ride the Ducks and tug operator contest financial liability

On the eve of their civil court trial, the families of two Hungarian students killed in the 2010 Duck boat tragedy questioned the safety of the amphibious vessels.

Dora Schwendtner, 16, and Szabolcs Prem, 20, were killed when a Ride the Ducks boat capsized in July 2010 in the Delaware River and was run over by a 250-foot barge pushed by a tugboat owned and operated by K-Sea Transportation.

"We want today in our son's name what we always wanted: justice," Szabolcs' father Sandor Prem said through an interpreter. "Every day is filled with pain and sorrow made even deeper by knowing that those responsible — the barge owner and Ride the Ducks — have still not been held accountable."

Citing an 1851 maritime law, K-Sea and Ride the Ducks will appeal to a U.S. District Court judge today to cap their amount of financial liability based on the value of each of their vessels. "To say that my son's life is worth the value of a ship ... You can build another ship, but I can't have another Szabolcs," said his mother Maria Prem.

▶ Ride the Ducks were allowed back on the water last year.

The law only applies if the operators prove they were unaware of any contributing problems before the accident, which the families' lawyers contest. "The facts are overwhelming — they knew about the problems and failed to take action," Robert Mongeluzzi said yesterday.

He referenced a recently released video showing the moments leading up to the tragedy. "I think it shows the devastating effect that not a single person was able to put on a life vest before impact," he said, noting the number of vests shown bobbing in the water after the crash. "It shows an abysmal failure on the part of Ride the Ducks. ... They were told not to put their life vests on and that killed Dora and Szabolcs."

The families said the litigation's prolonged timeline has made the experience more painful. "Every day I wonder how any parent could explain to their child what happened here, and how today we still have duck boats on the water on the same river where our Dora drowned," said her father Peter Schwendtner.

"We still suffer. And we still cannot believe that there is still such a low regard for the lives of those lost long before the prime of their lives."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Long road ahead

Mongeluzzi said that the case will take years to wrap up.

In the news

Alleged groper nabbed

Police have arrested a man they say is shown on surveillance video groping women in Chinatown last week. Melvin Bulls, 24, was taken into custody Friday without incident. He is suspected of grabbing women's buttocks in two separate incidents on April 26. One victim was only 12 years old. METRO

In the news

New police facility

City officials and Philadelphia police will break ground today for a new regional tactical training facility on State Road in Northeast Philadelphia. The new facility will house the police department's canine unit, bomb disposal unit and Special Weapons and Tactics Unit. METRO

In other duck boat news

PHILADELPHIA. A Ride the Ducks vehicle stalled on the Delaware River yesterday and officials are investigating the cause.

The vessel stalled around 1:20 p.m. carrying 26 passengers and two crew members, the company said. The crew implemented its safety procedures and the boat was towed to shore in about four minutes by an RTD quick-response boat.

"Like any other mechanical vehicle, vessels may sometimes stall," said Greg Blumenthal, RTD Philadelphia general manager. "The important point was that our safety procedures worked just as they had been planned and practiced.

METRO

Quoted

"The evidence to be presented at trial will conclusively establish that this accident was not a freak, unpredictable occurrence."

LAWYERS FROM SALTZ MONGELUZZI BARRETT & BENDESKY, A FIRM REPRESENTING THE COMPLAINANTS

Multipronged probe

PHILADELPHIA. The court date is just another chapter in an ongoing legal saga surrounding the incident. The National Transportation Safety Board last June released a 4,400 page report concluding that the duck boat overheated after an inexperienced mechanic left the radiator cap off the engine, causing the captain to shut down the vessel because he believed there was a fire on board.

The report also found that tug boat First Mate Matthew Devlin was distracted by cell phone use, a violation attorneys argue was regular and widespread among K-Sea employees. Devlin was sentenced to two years of prison in November.

METRO

Cop caught with minor

PHILADELPHIA. Seven-year veteran Philadelphia police officer Anthony Dattilo, 36, was arrested Thursday for allegedly soliciting a 14-year-old for sex in a Bensalem motel room.

The Bucks County district attorney's office charged Dattilo with promoting prostitution, unlawful contact with a minor and indecent assault. He has been suspended from the force with the intent to dismiss. METRO

▶ Dattilo

Cops investigate infant death

DELAWARE COUNTY. Upper Darby police are investigating a 4-month-old boy's death last November, which has now been ruled a homicide.

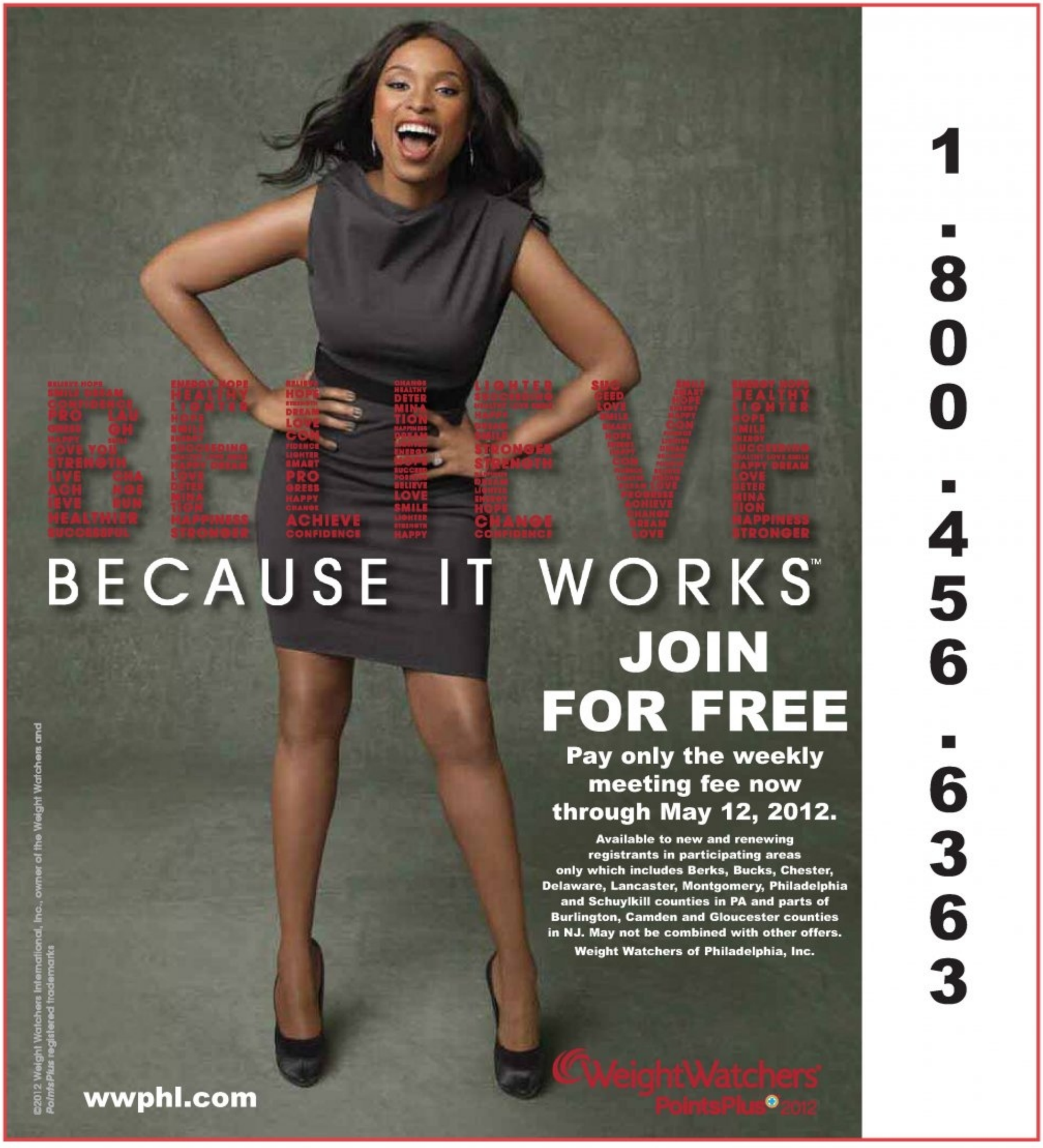
Authorities said Ja'Den Jones died on Nov. 10 at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, four days after his family reported he had stopped breathing. A report by the medical examiner last week ruled the death a homicide due to blunt cranial cervical trauma.

"There's no doubt that they're now involved in a conspiracy to keep law enforcement from finding out who killed the baby."

CHITWOOD

Police Superintendent Mike Chitwood said the family has hired an attorney and is no longer cooperating with police.

"There's no doubt that they're now involved in a conspiracy to keep law enforcement from finding out who killed the baby," Chitwood said. "A child was murdered in that house. There were only four people present before or after the incident." METRO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Joggers warned about Fairmount Park rapist

FAIRMOUNT PARK. Police circulated flyers over the weekend, warning women to be on the lookout for the Fairmount Park rapist.

DNA evidence links the same individual to four separate attacks between April 2003 and August 2007 involving women who were either walking or jogging in Fairmount Park. The most recent reported attack was on Aug. 11, 2007, in Pennypack Park.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male with a Latino accent, medium and muscular build, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, dark complexion, black hair, thin mustache and jawline beard. In two incidents, he fled on a purple metallic 10-speed bike. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 215-685-3263 or 3264. METRO

News in brief

Crash causes fire in Lansdowne

DELAWARE COUNTY. Police are investigating a bizarre incident in Lansdowne where a car ran into a building causing a fire.

The incident happened around 1:30 a.m. Sunday on North Maple Avenue. Just prior to the crash, witnesses reported hearing gunshots. According to reports, one person inside the vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene. Firefighters extinguished the blaze without any other reported injuries. Police have not identified the victim. METRO

Weekend fatal shootings

PHILADELPHIA. Three men were killed and two others wounded in three separate shootings on Saturday and early Sunday.

A triple shooting on the 400 block of Norris Street in North Philadelphia claimed the life of one man, 23, early yesterday morning. He was shot multiple times in the chest and died at Temple Hospital shortly before 2 a.m., police said.

In the same incident, a second unidentified man was shot multiple times in the groin and attempted to drive himself to Temple Hospital. He crashed his vehicle at 11th and Norris streets and is currently in critical condition. The third victim, 19, was shot in the torso and drove himself to Episcopal Hospital, where he was listed in stable.

A 21-year-old man was fatally shot in East Germantown Saturday afternoon. In the third incident, a 45-year-old man was shot once in the stomach around 9:45 a.m. Saturday on the 400 block of West Cumberland Street.

No arrests have yet been made in any of the incidents. METRO

Defense: More Penn State child sex abuse accusers

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

▶ Sandusky's lawyers will be in court Wednesday.

There may be more accusers than originally thought in the Penn State University scandal involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, who has been charged with sexually abusing 10 boys, according to court filings.

Sandusky attorney Joseph Amendola, in legal papers filed on Thursday in Common Pleas Court in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, made a reference to "accusers 11 through 17 as well as 18 through an unknown number."

Sandusky, 68, is charged with 52 counts of sexual abuse involving 10 boys, identified only as Victims 1-10. He has pleaded not guilty and is under house arrest. His trial is due to start in June.

The reference to additional accusers was made in letters Amendola wrote to prosecutors. The letters were filed ahead of a hearing on Wednesday before Judge John Cleland in Bellefonte regarding subpoenas filed by the defense.

Prosecutors have accused Amendola of improperly using subpoena powers to go on a "fishing expedition" for information that can help Sandusky with his defense.

Cleland has issued a gag order in the case. The state attorney general's office declined to comment on the case. Amendola did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The criminal indictment of Sandusky in November 2011 set off a firestorm of controversy that included the firings of university president Graham Spanier and longtime football coach Joe Paterno, who died of lung cancer in January. The scandal also resulted in criminal charges against two other university officials. REUTERS

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News in pictures

Dancing (and running) in the street

There was plenty of action across the city yesterday, including a Sixers playoff game in South Philadelphia, the 2012 Blue Cross Broad Street Run and Equality Forum's SundayOUT in Northern Liberties. A record 40,000 people participated in the 10-mile Broad Street Run Metro captured shots from the festivities. METRO

PHOTOS: RICARD LARMA/METRO

1: Runners sprint from the starting line of the Broad Street Run.
2: Brooks Banker, a performance drag queen, gets ready at SundayOUT.
3: Runners come down South Broad Street just past City Hall.
4: The record-setting field was a blur to some.
5. Hundreds from the LGBT community gathered at the Piazza at Schmidt's plaza.

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Lawmakers: Taliban stronger after US surge

The Taliban is stronger now than before President Barack Obama ordered a surge of troops to Afghanistan, two senior U.S. lawmakers said yesterday, contradicting the administration's assessment of the insurgency.

"I think we both say that what we found is the Taliban is stronger," Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein told "Fox News Sunday" in an interview that included House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, who agreed with her statement. The two lawmakers returned last week from a trip to Afghanistan.

"I think we both say that what we found is the Taliban is stronger."
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN

The Defense Department said last week in a report to Congress that its surge of 33,000 extra troops in Afghanistan ordered in late 2009 had weakened the Taliban but that the insurgency remained resilient.

The report said overall insurgent attacks declined in 2011 for the first time in five years, even though violence increased in areas surrounding the Taliban's southern stronghold of Kandahar, a region where U.S. efforts have been focused since 2009.

Feinstein, a Democrat, said radical Islamist religious schools in Pakistan were providing new recruits to the Afghan insurgency. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Taliban insurgents claimed a suicide bomb attack in Kabul on May 2.

News in brief

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Americans 'love to shop online' — but e-mail is the key

NEW YORK. Americans love to make purchases online, but the technology they use most often isn't Facebook or texting.

No, the primary driver is e-mail, and it beats Facebook and texting purchases combined. So, why the reliance on e-mail? It might have something to do with reliability and security, a new study says.

The report comes from ExactTarget, an Indianapolis-based interactive marketing service. ED's 2012 Channel Preference Survey says that about 66 percent of Americans who routinely go online have purchased an item either directly through e-mail, or because they found a product or service via e-mail. **MAINSTREET.COM**

Murder probe after Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, KY. Police opened a homicide investigation in Louisville, Ky., yesterday after a man's body was found in a barn behind Churchill Downs, just hours after the Kentucky Derby was run at the track.

Police spokeswoman Alicia Smiley said authorities received a call at about 5 a.m. yesterday reporting a body found in a barn not far from where I'll Have Another, the horse that won Saturday's race, was stabled.

Smiley said the victim was an unidentified Hispanic male.

She said police had determined foul play was involved and were investigating the death as a homicide. **REUTERS**

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Biden a Darwinist, too, when it comes to gays

▶ Vice President Joe Biden cited NBC sitcom "Will and Grace" as being at least partly responsible for his "evolving" support for gay rights. President Obama also claims to be evolving. We wonder when all this evolution might finally yield a man.

MIKE THEILER-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

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BRAYDEN SIMMS

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Scientists and fifth-graders alike likely understand: Evolution takes time. The complex genetic levers pulled by this biological process are generally understood in terms of geologic eras — many millions of years — rather than in human time spans. Yet some parts of the Obama administration seem to be evolving a tad more rapidly than others, at least regarding the White House's stance on same-sex marriage.

Vice President Joe Biden pulled a total Biden on MSNBC's "Meet the Press" yesterday when he made comments to host David Gregory that many interpreted as a positive endorsement of the hot-button political issue.

"I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men marrying women are entitled to the same exact rights," Biden said. "All the civil rights, all the civil liberties. ... Frankly I don't see much of a distinction beyond that."

With campaign 2012 at full boil — and especially as advocates in North Carolina look to Washington for guidance over the restrictive Amendment 1 set for a vote tomorrow — the Internet was quick to react. Liberal rights groups hailed Biden's progress, while conservatives pounced on the issue to pin down Obama's stance or try and push Romney into a full-throated condemnation.

But Biden's office and Obama's campaign quickly tried to contain the comments.

"The vice president was saying what the president has said previously — that committed and loving same-sex couples deserve the same rights and protections enjoyed by all Americans, and that we oppose any effort to roll back those rights," a Biden staffer clarified. "Beyond that, the vice president was expressing that he too is evolving on the issue, after meeting so many committed couples and families in this country."

The veep's office here references an earlier statement from President Obama in which he too claimed his views were "evolving," perhaps, gay advocates hoped, to accommodate same sex marriage. So far, no such luck.

Droponents of marriage equality likely believe that Obama privately supports equal rights for the gay community, but they've got to wonder on what time scale his views are progressing to the point of public admission. Will Obama come around in time for a possible second term, or will it take another ice age before the political incentives are met?

Last week the Romney campaign hung openly gay spokesman Ric Grenell out to dry as far-right conservatives attacked the historic hire. Now this. A casual observer might argue this could be a good chance for Obama to flex his liberal cred and reveal the daylight between the two campaigns. A cynical observer might assume the numbers had already been tallied and that action wasn't borne out by the results.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "The Paul revolution comes to Nevada" **LASVEGASSUN.COM**
- "Who's who? Obama, Romney projecting mirror image" **AP**
- "Newt Gingrich As Mitt Romney's Vice President: 'Inconceivable'" **HUFFINGTONPOST.COM**
- "Schwarzenegger: California's GOP should take down its small tent" **LATIMES.COM**
- "How Mitt Romney's Campaign Put A Damper On Obama's Big Day" **BUZZFEED.COM**
- "Elizabeth Warren's needless 'Native American' problem" **WASHINGTONPOST**
- "When is a job not a job?" **HOTAIR.COM**

MAURIZIO MALAGOLI/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Owls spy with their little eyes

MODENA, ITALY. Amateur photographer and computer professional Maurizio Malagoli captured these little owls looking identically wide-eyed at the camera, after they were startled by an earlier picture being taken. Malagoli was left with this photograph, which shows the birds' yellow eyes in a perfect diagonal line.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Little owl trivia

Little owls are sacred in Greek culture. Scientifically known as "Athene noctua," little owls are associated with Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, who is often featured with them in ancient art; the Greek one-euro coin shows the same little owl design as the silver tetradrachm coin from 2,500 years ago.

60 seconds with ...

Maurizio Malagoli, 36, lives in Moglia, a small village near Mantua, northern Italy.

Where did you capture this stunning image?
In Modena, there is a sanctuary that tends to wounded animals before they are released back into the wild. I arrived there the day some owls were being released. I positioned myself among the trees, wore green camouflage and waited a couple of hours before the owls were close enough to photograph.

For you, what makes owls so unique to photograph?
Following my time at the sanctuary, owls have become my favorite animal, despite the fact that in Italy and elsewhere there is a belief that these creatures bring you bad luck. But I'm not superstitious [laughs].

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

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WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

The design of your desk is important for your physical health and mental well-being at work
How to assess if your office is ergonomic

As an ergonomist, Joshua Estrin studies the physical danger of repetitious office movements and attempts to limit that liability wherever possible. But he can't help but notice greater implications of office space design — or lack of design.

"Comfort is no longer a luxury in the office, it's a necessity, because it's not good enough to just do your job anymore. The pressure on people in this economy is enormous. To expect them to do that when they're not in an environment that's physically comfortable is just illogical," says Estrin, who holds an M.S. in behavior and systems theory from Columbia University and currently works for a Florida consulting firm. "Making positive changes to a worker's environment goes a long way, especially in an economy where people may not be getting the raises they anticipated."

And an ergonomic workspace doesn't necessarily have to be an expensive one.

"I think we're finally getting to a place where companies understand that it doesn't have to cost thousands of dollars to be ergonomic," says Kevin Costello of US Ergonomics, a major consulting firm. "We've worked with companies with absolutely no budget for equipment. There are so many simple little adjustments to make: Some old books or stacks of paper can raise monitors to the proper height. It's about improving geometry, not raising costs."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

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Check your desk

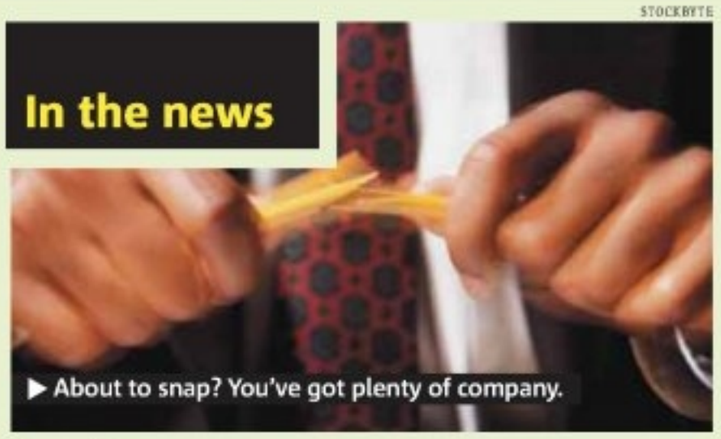
According to a recent study by US Ergonomics, more than half of office workers have never adjusted the height of their desk chair. The height and position of a desk chair in relation to corresponding computer monitors is the highest contributor to "cumulative trauma disorders," or serious injuries incurred by repetitious movements.

COMSTOCK

- A monitor should always be placed within the "vision cone" of the worker (roughly, no higher or lower than a 30 degree angle extending from their eyes).
- Laptop monitors are not within this ideal range and often contribute to injury.

STOCKBYTE

In the news



▶ About to snap? You've got plenty of company.

Surprise: Work is stressful

You're not the only one losing sleep over your job. In a new survey by talent and career management firm Right Management, two out of three of those surveyed reported that the stress level in their workplace was high. Only 11 percent of respondents experience a low level of stress.

Top cities for recent grads

Not all cities are created equal when you're a 2012 grad in search of a job and apartment.

Rental listing website Rent.com researched U.S. cities to determine the best bets for recent college graduates, looking at unemployment rates, mean annual income, cost of living and rental inventory. The following, in no particular order, made the cut:

- Boston, MA
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
- Seattle, WA
- Houston, TX
- Baltimore, MD
- Dallas, TX
- Kansas City, MO
- Raleigh, NC
- Washington, DC
- Austin, TX

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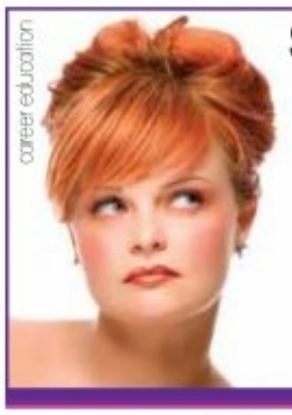
career education



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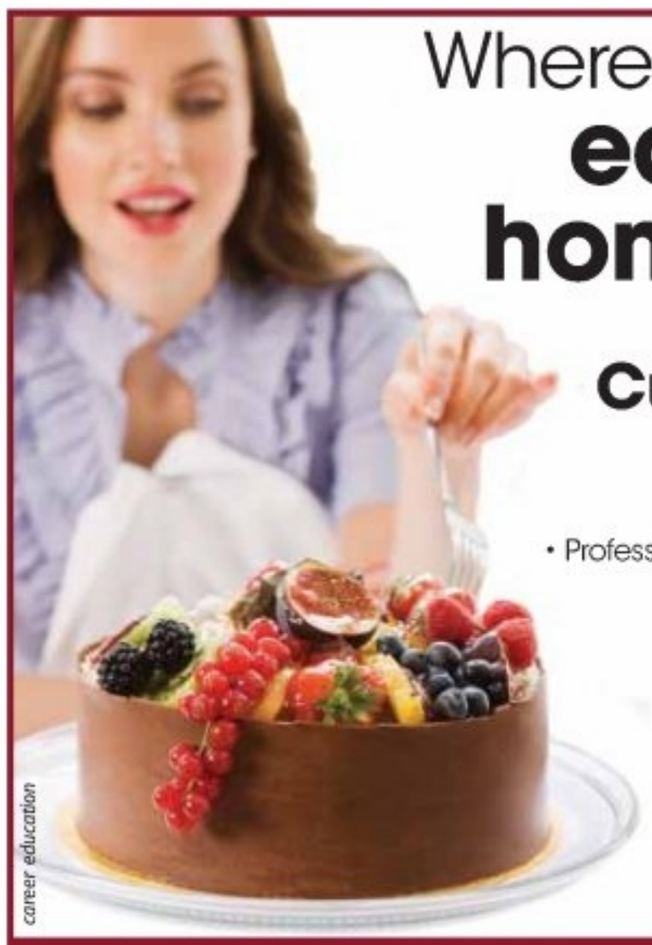

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Are you between jobs? Consider volunteering

Donating your time to a worthy cause could lead to professional connections and add to your résumé

Don't think that your volunteer work goes unnoticed. A recent LinkedIn study found that 41 percent of professionals surveyed consider volunteer work equally as valuable as paid work experience when evaluating candidates. In addition, 20 percent of the hiring managers surveyed have made a hiring decision based on a candidate's volunteer work experience.

If you're between jobs or have a schedule that allows you some extra time, volunteering could be the way to beef up that résumé. "This is clearly a person who stays in the game rather than waiting for the phone to ring," says Juan Morales, managing director at the Miami office of Stanton Chase International. "It shows initiative and a strong desire to exercise management skills for a charity or nonprofit organization."

If you're lucky — and smart about where you donate your free time — you might just make a professional connection, one that could lead to further employment. "It's best if you can be strategic when seeking a volunteer opportunity, finding a cause or mission that you're passionate about but that also has a connection to a current or potential work goal," says Chuck Pappalardo, managing director at Trilogy Search NonProfit. "Volunteering provides an excellent way to network, stay fresh and learn new skills, either in a job seeker's current field or one that he or she is interested in accessing."

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Seeing the bigger picture

Of course, résumé building is only a perk of volunteering, not the main reason to jump in when you're between jobs. "Volunteering gives one perspective, allowing you to see that there are many things to be thankful for even if you're going through a difficult time right now," says Pappalardo.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Gain some perspective.

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Andy Cohen gives Metro the scoop

You know him as the outgoing Bravo host who fans the fire at "Real Housewives" reunion shows and presses celebrities with cheeky questions during games of "Plead the Fifth" on "Watch What Happens Live." But Andy Cohen had a long, winding and often hilarious road to his rise as a pop culture guru and celebrity interview extraordinaire. In his new book "Most Talkative," Cohen opens up about dreaming of a life in television while watching "All My Children" as a kid, what it was like to live in fear of AIDS as a young gay man in the '80s and '90s, and working his way up the ladder from a CBS internship in New York City.

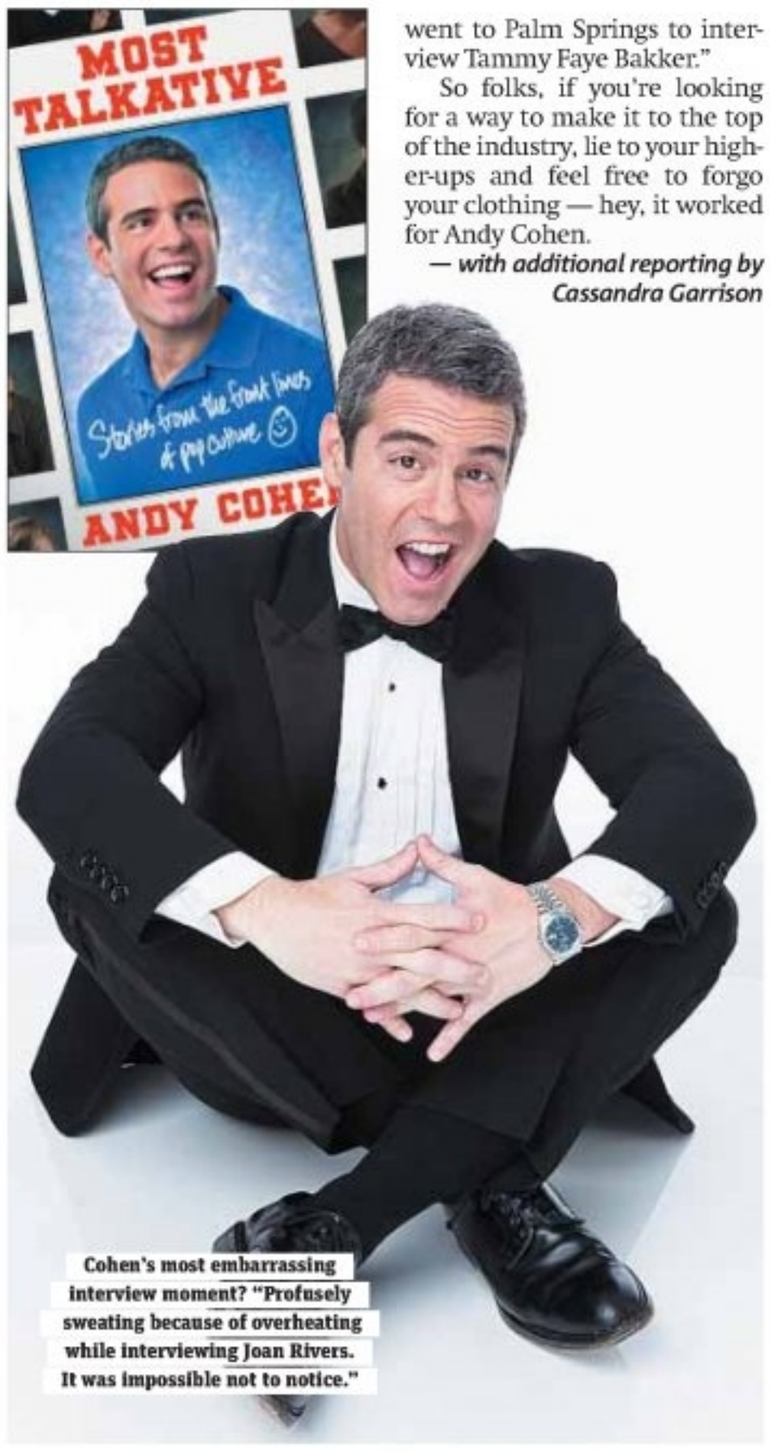
"I have all these great stories I've been telling friends for years," Cohen told Metro about his decision to write the book now. "I've just always wanted to tell them and I just felt like now was the time. I just needed a deadline, so I got one and then I went for it."

Cohen says his journal helped him put together the pieces of his memoir.

"I kept a journal for 11 years that really helped when I was writing about coming out of closet," he says. "And when I looked back on it writing the book, it seemed overly dramatic but it was so sincere and truly how I felt. There were so, so many details from my time at CBS — what a jackass I was during my internship, my work with Dan Rather and lying to Oprah to get an interview and getting caught, staying in a clothing-optional resort when I went to Palm Springs to interview Tammy Faye Bakker."

So folks, if you're looking for a way to make it to the top of the industry, lie to your higher-ups and feel free to forgo your clothing — hey, it worked for Andy Cohen.

— with additional reporting by Cassandra Garrison



Cohen's most embarrassing interview moment? "Profusely sweating because of overheating while interviewing Joan Rivers. It was impossible not to notice."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Demi Moore has finally dropped the @mrskutcher Twitter name, Miley Cyrus appreciates a happy ending, Jonah Hill is looking for some advice and Conan O'Brien is easily entertained.

@justdemi
So hard finding a name that was fun somewhat playful and available. So for now it will be @justdemi It could grow on me!

@MileyCyrus
Fairy tales are girl porn.

@JonahHill
What has the best coffee in the French quarter in new orleans?

@ConanOBrien
Ever get really into playing a video game, only to discover it was just one of those high-tech Japanese toilets?

Hill

Talking points

Bynes attracts more car troubles

Amanda Bynes hasn't been having much luck with cars. The actress was reportedly involved in a hit-and-run when her Range Rover sideswiped another car while trying to pass on the right, according to TMZ. Sources say Bynes continued driving on after the collision, but she reportedly cooperated with police once they caught up with her, telling them that she was unaware she had struck the other car. She was not issued a citation. The incident comes a month after Bynes was arrested for driving under the influence after clipping a police car.

Blue Ivy Carter is going to be spoiled

Jay-Z is planning to do the best he can to raise daughter **Blue Ivy Carter** right, but he resigned himself to the fact that she'll have it pretty easy in life. "I imagine I'll take things I learned from my mom and things I've learned from raising my nephews and apply that," he says of his parenting plans in an interview with Oprah Winfrey. "Then at the end of the day, I just know I'll probably have the worst, spoiled little kid ever." At least the rap mogul is ready for the inevitable resentment that comes with being a parent: "Everyone imagines they'll be a great dad until their [kids are] teenagers. [They say], 'Get away from me, Dad. You're embarrassing me,'" he says.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Casper Smart

Casper, the friendly boyfriend

Getting close to **Jennifer Lopez** can certainly be a career boost — at least for **Casper Smart**, Lopez's 24-year-old boyfriend and backup dancer. The singer announced that Smart would be serving as one of the choreographers for her new world tour, according to Us Weekly.

Lady Gaga loves her alone time

Lady Gaga says she "cherishes" being alone now, but it wasn't always that way for the newly single star. "I would go back to my apartment every day and I would just sit there. It was quiet and it was lonely. It was still," she says of her early days in an interview for "The Conversation with Amanda de Cadenet." "I had a television and I would leave it on all the time just to feel like somebody was hanging out with me. And especially during the period when I was doing cocaine. It was like the drug was my friend."

Special delivery

Congratulations to one of our own

Longtime Metro gossip columnist Dorothy Robinson Scott gave birth to a beautiful baby boy over the weekend. We at Metro are incredibly proud of and happy for Dorothy and her husband, though we were a little offended that the couple did not take our suggestion and name the little one Great Scott.

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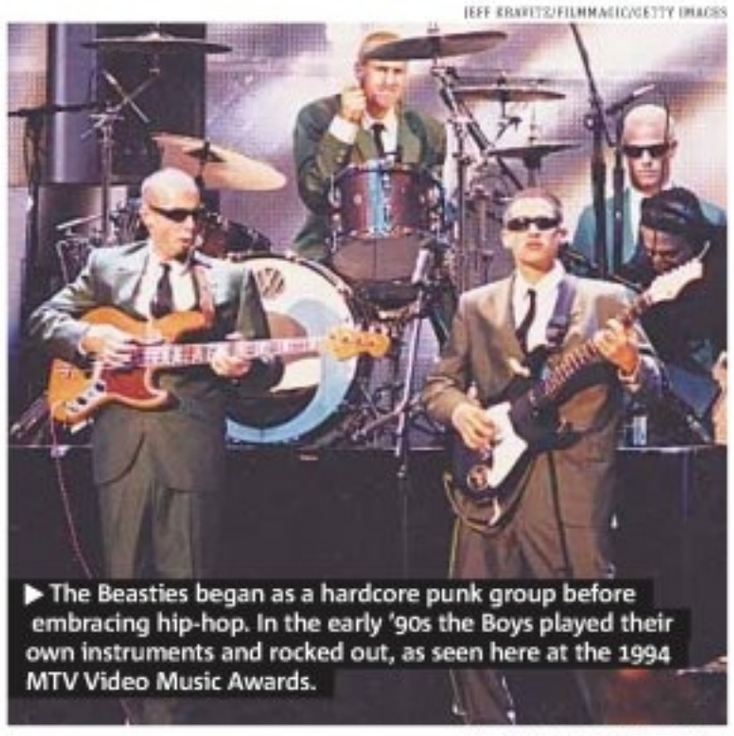
RIP MCA

After a three-year battle against cancer, Beastie Boys co-founder Adam Yauch died on Friday. Yauch, who was best known as MCA, was 47. Today we salute the man, who along with Mike "Mike D" Diamond and Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz taught us how to fight for our right to party, and then later to fight for human rights.

ERET ROBERTS/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ While RUN DMC were obliterating dividing lines between rap and rock with their Aerosmith collaboration of "Walk This Way," they brought the Beasties on tour with them, together helping to break down existing racial divides within the rap community.

JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

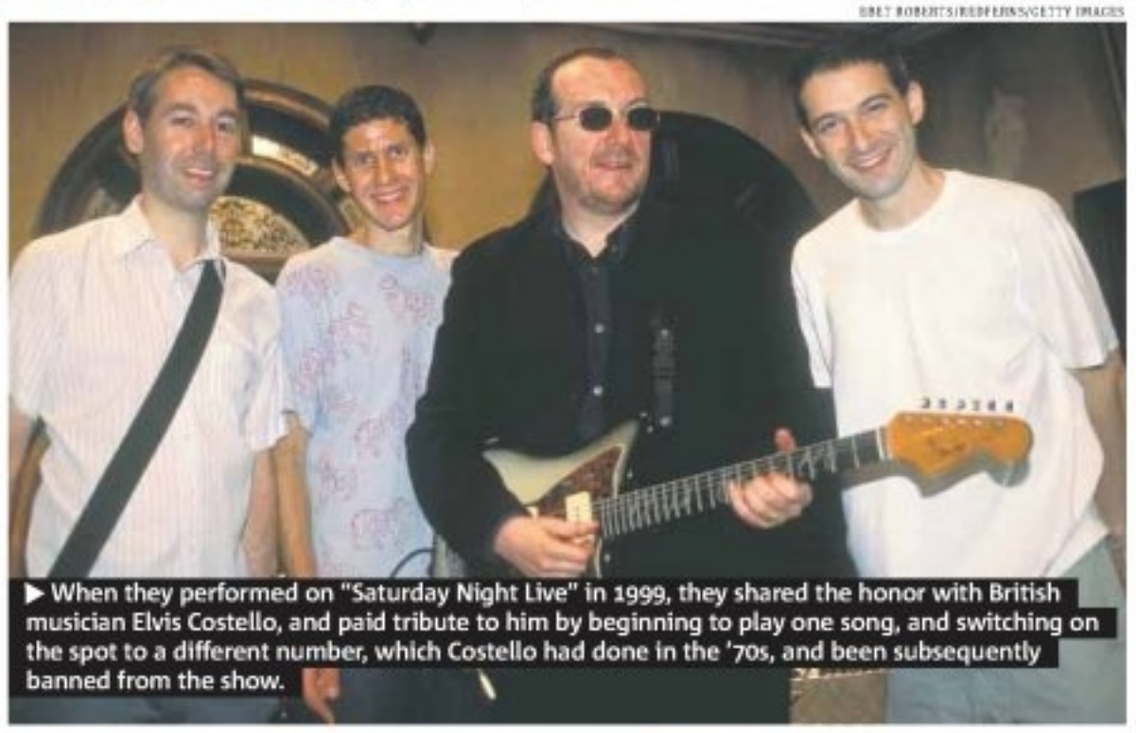


▶ The Beasties began as a hardcore punk group before embracing hip-hop. In the early '90s the Boys played their own instruments and rocked out, as seen here at the 1994 MTV Video Music Awards.

JAMIE MCCARTHY/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Beasties and Diddy get the vote out in 2004.

ERET ROBERTS/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES



▶ When they performed on "Saturday Night Live" in 1999, they shared the honor with British musician Elvis Costello, and paid tribute to him by beginning to play one song, and switching on the spot to a different number, which Costello had done in the '70s, and been subsequently banned from the show.

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ What could three disparate musicians such as Sean Lennon, left, MCA, center and David Crosby, right, possibly discuss? Perhaps they were discussing the notion of a free Tibet, as this photo was snapped at the 1998 Tibetan Freedom Concert, an event which MCA organized. He also founded the Milarepa Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting awareness and activism regarding injustices perpetrated on native Tibetans.

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ MCA shares a friendly moment with R.E.M. singer Michael Stipe in 1997. Three years earlier, when the Beasties were bested by R.E.M. for an MTV Video Music Award, MCA — dressed in lederhosen — rushed the stage. "Listen all y'all this is sabotage" indeed! It seems the Beastie Boys were influential to Kanye West for more than just rhymes.

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ In 2009, MCA announced that he had been diagnosed with cancer. On Friday, Lenny Kravitz, who is pictured here with MCA in 2010, wrote on his Facebook page, "Rest in peace MCA. You are a legend. No sleep 'till Brooklyn."

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Don't forget the man behind the Avengers

In a franchise of characters going from comic book pages to the big screen, Clark Gregg's deadpan Agent Coulson has been going the other way, popping up on screen in "Iron Man," "Iron Man 2" and "Thor" before being turned into a Marvel comic book character. Now, the hard-working S.H.I.E.L.D. agent's efforts to bring the heroes together pay off with "The Avengers."

It's pretty ambitious, five movies leading up to this one. How has it been from your perspective?

I wasn't quite sure how I was getting to be a part of this, it seemed so surprising. I was lucky. Something about the character was clicking. They knew where they wanted to go, but they weren't quite sure exactly how, and they picked a character who wasn't even in the comics to start to be the thing to tie it together. I was doing scenes in "Iron Man 2" talking about going to New Mexico, and finally I pulled somebody aside and said, "What's in New Mexico? I'm sorry, I feel like I read the script and I don't know this." And they were like, "Nobody talked to you? You're going to be in 'Thor.'

Quoted

"Agent Coulson is not the father, certainly, of this dysfunctional family, but he is kind of like the weird uncle who babysits a lot."
GREGG

At what point are you usually allowed to know things about the franchise?

Me? Last. Always last. They do tell me a little, and I've gotten pretty good at hanging around on set and talking to |producers| Jeremy Latcham and Kevin Feige and just listening very closely. Every once in a while I figure out something about what's coming next.

Do you have a favorite Avenger?

You know, it may sound like a

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WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

▶ Agent Coulson is the glue of the Avengers team.

copout, but Agent Coulson is not the father, certainly, of this dysfunctional family, but he is kind of like the weird uncle who babysits a lot. And I think there's a choice you make of just, "I'm never going to have a favorite." There's certainly some that are often favorites. I think there's a special kind of snarky rapport with Tony Stark that Agent Coulson actually really enjoys.

Everyone was very hush-hush about "The Avengers." Can you give those who haven't seen it some fake spoilers?

I guess the one thing that I can reveal as a fake spoiler is that what really, at the end of the day, brings the Avengers together is a "Beat It"-style dance-off with the alien invaders.

It makes sense, really, considering the success of the "Step Up" franchise.

That's exactly right. "Avengers Step Up," yes. And it's good to get all the male Avengers in the catsuits, too. It's only fair.

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Interview

'The Avengers' is full of stars. And one unknown: The new girl

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

▶ Colbie Smulders takes on the role of Maria Hill in "The Avengers."

"How I Met Your Mother" star Cobie Smulders was far from an avid Avengers fan before coming on board as S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Maria Hill, but that didn't mean she wasn't excited to join the team. The Canadian actress was quick to learn the job would have some challenges — like getting security clearance.

How familiar were you with Maria Hill before taking on the role?

Not at all, sir. Not at all. When I auditioned, too, I auditioned for "Female Agent" because they were very hush-hush about it. And then I went in to do a screen-test with Samuel L. Jackson and they were like, "for Maria Hill." So that's when I went onto the Web and started looking her up and finding any comic book I could find on her.

Comic fans are notoriously picky about depictions of characters. Was there any talk of cutting your hair to match Maria's look in the comics?

I went in there and said I want to cut my hair off, and they said no. And I'm actually quite grateful for that now, because they did give me a severe bang, which took a long time to grow out and look normal. But I went in guns a-blazing like that. "Let's do it!"

What were some of the cooler aspects of making a movie of this scope?

We went to a NASA location in Cleveland and we shot there for a day, maybe two. And we got to go in where they test the effects of zero gravity on different things. And it was so funny because I'm Canadian, and because I was Canadian I had to bring my passport and I had a guy follow me around the whole day. Because I was going to steal all the secrets and bring them back to Canada or something. We are, you know, very sneaky. Our space program is really hush-hush. We've got some major developments. (laughs)

METRO/NE

Box office

'The Avengers' flexes muscles at the box office

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

"The Avengers," proving that five superheroes are better than one, smashed into U.S. and Canadian theaters with a record $200.3 million in ticket sales over the weekend, distributor Walt Disney Co. said yesterday.

The worldwide total for "Avengers," produced by Disney's Marvel unit, reached $641.8 million since the movie opened in international markets on April 25.

"Avengers" unites Marvel comic book heroes Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk and others in a battle to save the planet.

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Could you be loved?

- Kevin MacDonald's new Bob Marley documentary examines the reggae legend as a man more than a myth
- What he finds is humanizing, revealing and inspiring

GAI TERRELL/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

"Marley" is available on iTunes and in theaters now.

Kevin MacDonald directed "Last King of Scotland," so when the award-winning director turns his attention to a Bob Marley documentary, it's obviously going to go way beyond the "every little thing's gonna be all right" aspect of the late reggae legend.

"When I saw other things done on him in the past and read other books, I never felt like I knew him as a person," says the director. "The aim is to see him as a man, what was he like as a lover, as a friend."

While he was alive, Bob Marley didn't do that many on-camera interviews though, so MacDonald had to uncover other sources, which included Marley's teacher, his half-sister and a childhood friend.

"The main challenge of the film was getting the people to talk," says MacDonald. "About a third of them have never spoke before."

MacDonald also provides an honest look at Marley's family life — he had at least 13 children from eight different women — and daughter Cedella speaks frankly about how the communal living situation at the singer's house deprived her of important time with her father.

"She felt that sense that he was always surrounded by the brethren," says MacDonald. "It was a religious order, almost a military setup. He was called 'Skipper,' and he ran a very tight ship. He was strict with [his musicians], he made them rehearse a lot. [Many people have an] image of Rastas that they lazed around smoking ganja all day, but in fact he was this driven guy."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

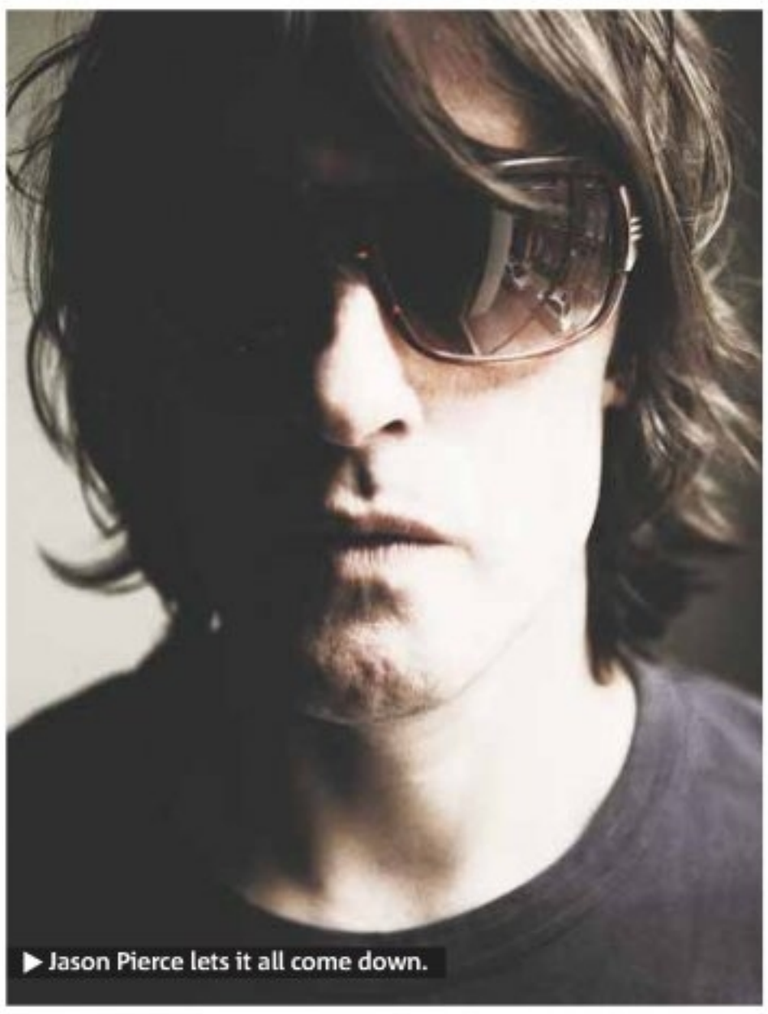
The 'Legend'

MacDonald says his international experience helped reinforce his notion that it was time somebody re-examined the life of Bob Marley on film.

"When I was making 'The Last King of Scotland' — I made that in Uganda and I was amazed by how in the slums of Uganda, you'd come across huge lots of Rastas singing Bob's music, playing Bob's music, doing murals of his face, graffiti of his lyrics, I was just realizing how Bob still speaks to people. ... In Tibet, Indonesia, not just an audience which is college stoners or Western people who chill out and love the vibe of it. It's also music that has a message that continues to appeal to people around the developing world. And that's the key about understanding Bob; he's the only Third World superstar. He didn't come from North America or Europe, he came from abject poverty, he grew up in a shack in the hills of Jamaica sleeping on an earth floor. ... So you go to go to Indonesia, people have never heard of the Rolling Stones, but they've all heard of Bob Marley. In Nigeria, they've got streets and squares named after him."

Spiritualized is willing

Though Jason Pierce does not actually like making albums, the singer certainly has put together an epic piece of music with the new 'Sweet Heart Sweet Light'


▶ Jason Pierce lets it all come down.

Spiritualized records have a history of being some of the most intricate, complex and laborious undertakings in modern rock music. Conceived from the mind of Jason Pierce and translated to tape, the stops on Spiritualized's musical journey have included everything from psychedelic freakouts and overwhelming orchestral offerings to gospel soul and epic ethereal ism. Exploring the sonic peaks and valleys of drug use complete with religious allusions that seem to cry out for redemption, the band's anxious buildups and triumphant crescendos are like symphonies for substance sympathizers.

Pierce isn't easy to track down, but at the last possible moment, Metro was able to talk to him about the recent release of his seventh album, "Sweet Heart Sweet Light."

"I f—ing hate making records," says Pierce, wryly. "I really do. And it just gets harder. Sometimes I think I just make a record to tour because I feel the need to get back on the road. There's something exciting live when you're pushing it and you're within it, but you're not trying to hold onto it."

Pierce says when he started making "Sweet Heart," he wanted it to sound like the Beatles.

"Then halfway through I realized I didn't really like the Beatles," he says. "Not that I don't like the Beatles' music, but I decided I wouldn't like to make a record like that."

He says he was looking to produce sounds that defied genre classification.

"I wanted to make something where you didn't have to be hip to a certain style or music," he says. "When I tried to put that down, it became very hard to make. Anyone trying to make pop music has nowhere to hide. You can't hide in an abstract idea. It doesn't really come with a disclaimer."

"It got in the way," says Pierce. "The treatment was worse than the thing I was suffering from. I had to do the treatment, otherwise I was going to get worse. Really it was made under a whole set of conditions and what being on these drugs can do. I can't really even listen to the record now because it reminds me of that time."

If you go

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NOLAN GAWRON
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Pierce no longer 'Taking Drugs to Make Music to Take Drugs To'

While his previous record followed his near-death experience with double pneumonia, "Sweet Heart Sweet Light" was written during another health scare, one he doesn't like to talk about. This record doesn't dwell on drugs like previous ones do. An EP by his former band, Spacemen 3, is legendarily titled, "Taking Drugs to Make Music to Take Drugs To." But Pierce's latest was recorded under the influence of different substances: Ones prescribed by a doctor.

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TV watch list

'2 Broke Girls'

COMEDY. One way to stop being a "Broke Girl": Crash the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala to get Martha Stewart to taste one of your cupcakes.
Season finale, 8:30 p.m., CBS

'Castle'

DRAMA. Castle tries to dissuade Beckett from pursuing a dangerous case that may be linked to her own shooting.
Season finale, 10:01 p.m., ABC AMBER RAY

WHY WOMEN LOVE 'GAME OF THRONES'

The HBO show is bloody and graphically violent, so why is it getting so much love from ladies?

PHOTOS: HBO PRODUCTIONS

Arya Stark

Catelyn Stark

Daenerys Targaryen

Cersei Lannister

At first glance, the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros are a male-dominated society. Daughters are wedded off for political advantage, and wives who disobey their husbands are slapped across the face.

Despite what appears to be a misogynistic message, HBO's critically acclaimed series "Game of Thrones" has managed to appeal a large base of female fans.

"I could see how men would be more attracted to it. It's a lot of sex and violence — and there's a lot of boobs," Rosanne Stern, a 26-year-old English student, says. "But, a lot of the girls who have seen it — after they [got over that] there was a lot of sex and violence — were drawn in as well."

Stern faithfully watches the HBO series with her boyfriend. Despite the fact that she believes that it is "one of the most well-written series" she'd seen in a long time, Stern rarely found other female fans that shared her passion for the series before the TV show came out. Now, she's noticing that men and women alike are reading the books and catching up with the "A Song of Fire and Ice" saga.

Part of what Stern feels draws women to the series is the strong female characters like Daenerys, the Dothraki princess from House Targaryen.

Diya Chaco, another female fan of the series, agrees. "[The women] have a lot of control over their actions, more than typical women in fantasy stories," she says.

At the end, what piques many women's interest is the series' universal appeal of a nail-biting plot where no person is safe and strong characters regardless of gender.

"The characters are very, very well done, and I think that's what draws women and men," Stern says. "I haven't met anyone who watched the show and didn't like it."

MICHELLE CASTILLO
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Believe in Sherlock

PBS' update on the detective tale has a cult following in the States ◗ Those fans want to make sure you're watching Season 2, too ◗ Star Benedict Cumberbatch explains the allure of Sherlock Holmes

As you slipped through the subway turnstile this morning, perhaps you noticed a handmade sticker proclaiming, "I believe in Sherlock." In one of the most creative acts of devotion — or is that obsession? — fans of "Sherlock," the BBC import that finds Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective solving "unsolvable" crimes in modern London, sparked a guerilla marketing campaign in support of their hero. And that was a reaction to new episodes premiering in the U.K., months before they even hit PBS in the States.

"People really went f—ing berserk for ['Sherlock'] here, which is just fantastic," says star Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays a gadget-inclined incarnation of Sherlock Holmes. We're sitting backstage at the 400-seat Florence Gould Hall Theater in Midtown, which will soon host the "Sherlock" superfans — some of whom flew thousands of miles and have been lined up for 10 hours to attend the night's screening and Q&A session. The evening, says the awed Cumberbatch, belongs to them. "I want to make them feel included in something bigger than the cult they've created by word of mouth, because it was such an event in the U.K. this year," he says of "Sherlock" Season 2, which drew around 10 million viewers per episode. "It's nice to be in a watercooler moment, and I'd love for America to experience a bit of that as well."

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▶ Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock." Season 2 includes three 90-minute episodes, airing Sundays at 9 p.m. on PBS through May 20. Read our full interview with the actor at www.metro.us/television

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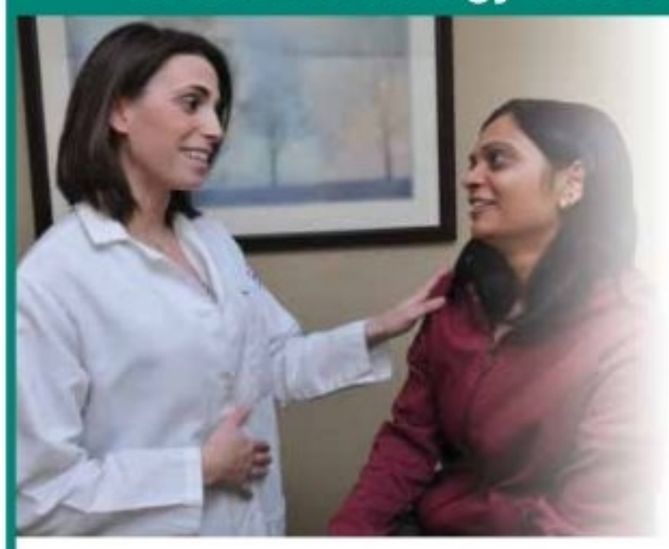

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Yoga pose of the week

Crescent Lunge

1 Get into downward-facing dog. Step your right foot between your hands and lower your hips into lunger position. Lower your left knee to the floor and untuck your toes.

2 Bring your arms overhead and bring your palms to touch. Gently bend back. Clasp your hands and gradually deepen your backbend. Lead with your chest and engage your abdominals. Return your torso to an upright position.

3 Press into the ball of your left foot, lift your knee off the floor and straighten your leg. Look up and bend back again. Leading with your chest, engage your abdominals. Return your torso to an upright position.

4 Lower your left knee back to the floor. Lower your hands through prayer position. Release them and place your palms on the floor. Lift your left knee back into a lunge. Step your right leg back into a downward-facing dog. Hold for 5-8 breaths.

5 Switch sides.

—Kristin McGee is a celebrity yoga & pilates instructor and Fila's Fitness Brand Ambassador, who has a loyal following of A-list celebrities, athletes and models. She also leads yoga retreats around the world. Learn more at www.kristinmcgee.com.

Are you normal?

Crushing on your doctor? Can't pee in public? Jonathan Alpert takes a look at what's plaguing you

STOCKBYTE

It's totally normal to be attracted to your therapist. But acting on those feelings will land both of you in hot water.

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Is it normal that I have a crush on my therapist?

Yes, but all so wrong if acted on by either party. Think about it: You look towards your therapist as an authority figure and someone who confidently provides you with unlimited support, understanding and advice — all of which can potentially be very sexy and appealing. But keep in mind that you're paying your therapist to provide a service and he or she has ethical standards to uphold. Sex with your partner is good. Sex with your therapist is bad.

I'm a healthy, 30-something guy and I can't urinate in front of others. Is that normal?

Yes, normal and common. It's called paruresis and is sometimes referred to as "shy bladder." For a practical solution, whenever possible, use a bathroom stall rather than a urinal. Consider counseling to help you examine your thought process and get tips on how to think differently.

Is it normal that people don't return my e-mails?

No, not at all. They are rude. This lack of courtesy, though, has become acceptable because it's so easy to simply avoid electronic communication rather than engage in direct communication. As a result, the standards of social etiquette have plummeted. You have every right to expect a timely return to your e-mails and to be upset if that doesn't happen.

—Jonathan Alpert is a licensed psychotherapist. His new book, "BE FEARLESS: Change Your Life in 28 Days," is available at major booksellers and Amazon. Follow him online at www.jonathanalpert.com, on Facebook (www.facebook.com/jonathanalpert) and on Twitter @jonathanalpert.

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Letters

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Football health risks feed US circuses

The low life expectancy of football players has sparked the debate of the dangers of head trauma or concussions. Yet the same announcers that say they are concerned about that subject seem very much into savagery of boxing. I guess, as long as the beer companies can sell beer and people can relieve their frustrations in life, the deaths of a small percentage of the population to keep the natives "happy" is an acceptable price to pay.
JOSEPH DUPONT, VIA E-MAIL

Wait a minute, what percent are we now?

RE: "OCCUPY BACK IN THE NEWS, BUT WHY?": The truth is that cities that spend money policing Occupy Wall Street protesters would not use it on AIDS victims, or provide shelter for the homeless, or keep libraries open. The prevailing view of Republican politicos (and some Democrats) is that the homeless, undocumented aliens, and overcompensated union workers and their retirees are the cause of this financial crises, that they are the ones draining the government coffers. These people are simply trying to maintain their standard of living. Those people whose income puts them in the 99 percentile are the only who are not struggling. They never do.
RICHARD ROACH, VIA E-MAIL

As a whole, the Occupy movement has definitely jumped the shark. From my personal observations, I noticed about 50 twenty-something white males — you know the type, those who are sick of The Man hassling them and want their moms and dads off their case. If this is the best movement the commies can come up with, hard-working American taxpayers (the 53 percent) have got nothing to worry about this November.
JOSHUA TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL

A modern history of the presidency

A bit of historical perspective: I've seen, on the Republican side, Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, both Bushes — in general policies and appointees loosening regulations on business, like gutting the EPA and giving finance enough rope to hang themselves and the rest of us too. On the Democratic side, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Clinton, Obama — in general passage of legislation and appointees favorable to individuals like voting rights, civil rights, cleaning up the air and water, and equal pay for equal work. It's an old story, more true now than ever, if the rights of the individual are to be protected from corporate greed this country needs Democratic leadership.
PAUL SIMONS, VIA E-MAIL

Marigold flick a lovely distraction

Metro's review of "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," whose main characters are senior citizens, implies that only people under a certain age read your paper. ("Your parents will love it.") I am not a senior but I imagine that people of all ages read Metro. And while it's true that moviegoers don't usually flock to see seniors being romantic, I think even 20-somethings might sometimes want a change from watching Taylor This and Taylor That in yet another rom-com action flick.
MAUREEN SHANAHAN, VIA E-MAIL

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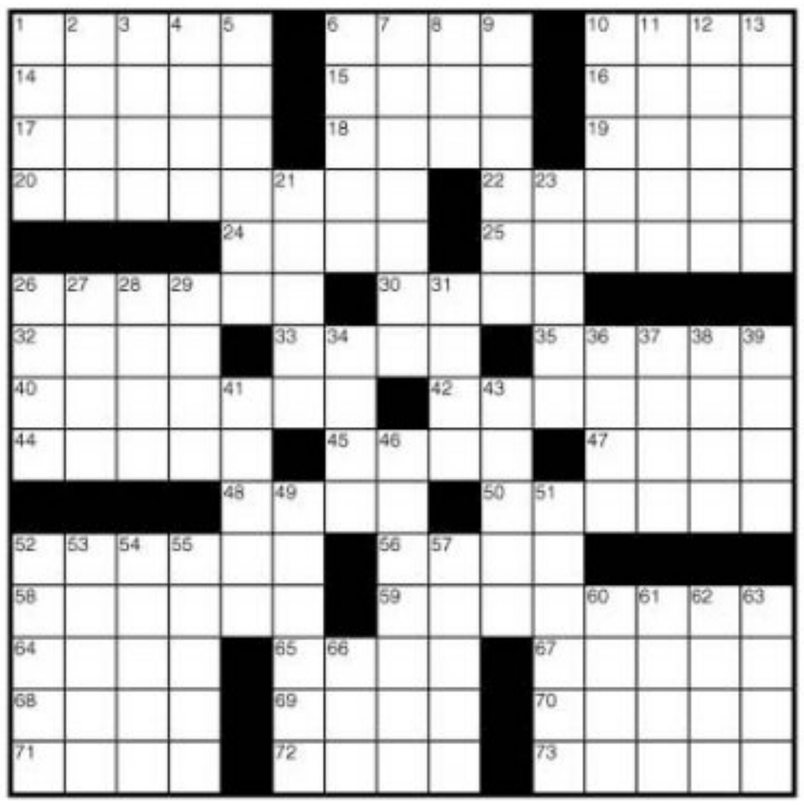
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Watch how you phrase your requests, or they could come out sounding more like demands than appeals. Try to see things from the others' perspectives.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Strive to be a bit more comforting than annoyed if your mate is in a grumpy mood. Calming words could be the elixir that would work wonders.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** The only way you'll have anything worthwhile to show for your time is to apply industry, not apathy. Nothing will get done if all you do is voice excuses and neglect your duties.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** A lot of discipline will be required in the management of your resources. To make matters worse, an additional dosage may be necessary in the handling of others' funds as well.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Unless you're careful, you could stoop to taking out your frustration on those for whom you care the most, only because you know they're the ones who'll take it without complaint.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't attempt to use flattery, subterfuge or insincerity when trying to make a pitch for something you want. Those you deal with will be able to perceive your motives.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If your judgment is based on pure emotion, you may have trouble distinguishing between those to whom you should be generous and those who don't deserve anything.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Be careful that you don't wrongly cater to someone who never has and never will do you any good, while barely acknowledging one who has helped you out previously and would again.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Don't let yourself become entranced with someone who is already committed. You'd be asking for trouble if you trespass in forbidden territory.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Treat all business endeavors seriously, but especially those involving people you know socially. Unless that distinction is clearly marked, you'll be asking for trouble.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Should you find that your companions are only partially in accord with your purposes, causing you to attempt to manipulate them into agreement, they'll be even more disenchanted.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Persons who are under your directives might need some skillful handling. Unless you can find a way to inspire them, they aren't likely to accomplish much of anything.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Rustle
6 Hershey product
10 Ducks' haunt
14 Shelve indefinitely
15 Leave out
16 Journalist __ Ducommun
17 Common phrase
18 Pulpit
19 Novelist __ Waugh
20 Favor
22 Rhythm instrument
24 Panache
25 Whole bunch
26 Comstock Lode state
30 Bathrobe tie
32 Corp. biggie
33 Recital piece
35 Morality
40 Brownies
42 Amber-colored wine
44 Curry favor
45 Nightfall
47 Smelting waste
48 Drip
50 Unnerve
52 Cautioned
56 Pilots' sightings
58 Riding the rails
59 Met in space (2 wds.)
64 Teases
65 Road to Rome
67 Fit to be tied
68 Prepare for print
69 Fish without scales
70 Poker pair
71 Gainsay
72 Dele's undoing
73 Mural base



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1 Recipe direction
2 Use hip boots
3 Hieroglyphics bird
4 Wild plum
5 __ in (surrounded)
6 Tailless marsupial
7 Humongous
8 Bro or sis
9 Walks noisily
10 Fall fruits
11 Clay pots
12 Reunion attendee
13 Stick-on design
21 Cutting edge
23 Sighed with delight
26 Plover's home
27 World's Fair
28 Dancer __-Ellen
29 Kind of rain
31 Dollar dispensers
34 Beef-rating org.
36 Course finale
37 Sword handle
38 By mouth
39 Dry plains shrub
41 Mary __ Moore
43 Tire center
46 Hula accompaniment
49 Vortexes
51 Sounding out
52 Greeted the day
53 Stand for
54 "The Thinker" sculptor
55 Disgustingly dirty
57 Earliest
60 Ontario neighbor
61 Karate levels
62 Versatile vehicles
63 Pancho's coin
66 Lunar New Year

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	6			9	3		1	
			1			6		
		8			1			6
		4				9		
7			2			1		
		9			5			
	8		7	1			6	
	3	1		2			7	9

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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GOT AN OPINION? SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS

Holiday accepts challenge, Sixers push Bulls to brink

- Point guard pours in 20, including two key threes
- Team one win away from advancing to second round

Deep in the guts of the Sixers' 89-82 Game 4 win, Andre Iguodala had a suggestion for coach Doug Collins.

Let's get the ball to Jrue Holiday, the team captain implored. No matter that Holiday had started off disastrously, missing 13 of his first 14 shots. Forget that Iguodala gets paid the biggest bucks, or that he was the Sixers' lone All-Star.

Iguodala knew that Holiday's scoring ability gives the Sixers their best chance to advance to the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time since 2003. And the young point guard responded with his second, game-changing 3-pointer of the fourth quarter, this one coming with under four minutes to go. It handed the Sixers a seven-point lead and they never looked back.

"He saw I was in a groove," said Holiday, who scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half. "I hit a big shot and was excited and confident. Dre's been a leader this whole time, this whole year."

The scorer's mentality that Holiday has is shared by his coach. Collins was the No. 1 overall pick of the Sixers in 1973. He averaged 17.9 points per game over an eight-year career.

"He's got a coach that has no conscious when it comes to shooting," Collins said. "Jrue was 0-for-the-world, and he gave us two huge threes."

Now the eighth-seeded Sixers have won three straight playoff games for the first time since 2001. They can wrap up the series tomorrow in Chicago. Of course, the Bulls are playing without their two best players in Derrick Rose (knee) and Joakim Noah (ankle). But don't tell that to coach Tom Thibodeau.

"We do have more than enough to win with," he said.

ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

ON TV TOMORROW

Sixers at Bulls, 9:30 p.m. (CSN)

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jrue Holiday scored 20 points in the Sixers' 89-82 win yesterday in Game 4. He was 7-of-23 from the field.

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Frustrated Flyers drop Game 4 to New Jersey

Orange and Black lose 4-2, trail Devils 3-1 in series Bryzgalov turns in best performance of postseason Teams back at it tomorrow night

The frustration is settling in. From Scott Hartnell throwing his glove en route to the penalty box to Claude Giroux's temper tantrum after an illegal hit to the head of Dainus Zubrus, the Flyers are breaking down.

After a dominating performance by the New Jersey Devils, the Flyers are on their playoff deathbed thanks to a 4-2 loss yesterday that was way more commanding than the scoreboard suggests.

"It seems like we just think that they're going to let us do whatever we want out there," Danny Briere said after Game 3. The same was true after Game 4.

The only reason it wasn't a full-on blowout is goaltender Ilya Bryzgalov, who had his best performance of the playoffs. He was the lone highlight. The Flyers didn't skate, didn't pass and just watched Bryzgalov until the shine wore off.

Bryzgalov faced 41 shots on net and stopped 38. The second period, where the game-winning goal was given up, was perhaps his best period. He made a sprawling glove save and remarkably kept another puck out of the net despite Steve Bernier getting three cracks at his groin before officials finally pulled him out of the crease.

Oddly enough, the Flyers scored the first goal of the game, even though they were outplayed from the opening faceoff. They are now 1-4 in the playoffs when scoring the game's first goal and remarkably are 4-0 when their opponent scores first.

The Flyers will have one last shot to redeem themselves tomorrow night. If their frustration from the first four games is any indication, there will be a lot more gloves thrown.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ilya Bryzgalov faced 41 shots in a losing effort yesterday.

ON TV TOMORROW

Game 5: Devils at Flyers 7:30 p.m. (NBCSN)

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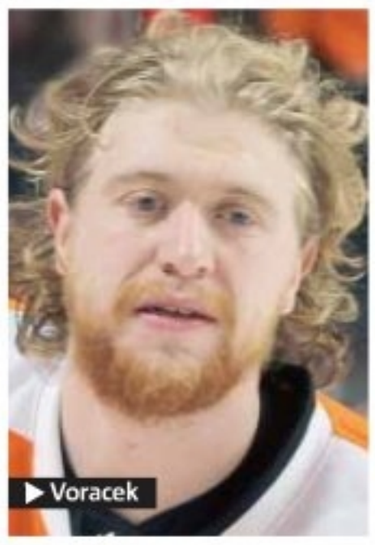
Voracek enjoying his second go-around in Cup playoffs

This time last year, Jake Voracek was in his hotel room in Slovakia preparing for the world championships and hitting the refresh button on his Internet browser to follow the Stanley Cup playoffs.

This year, he's still playing with countryman Jaromir Jagr, but not for the Czech Republic. He's been a big factor in the Flyers' playoff run — and he is much happier to be in North America instead of Stockholm, Sweden, where his fellow Czechs will face Norway today.

"The Stanley Cup playoffs is probably the best thing you can be a part of," Voracek said. "I'm very happy this year that I have an opportunity to play in them."



11 Career playoff points (2 goals, 9 assists) for Jake Voracek. He's notched 10 of those this season for the Flyers.

Before this year, Voracek had only played four playoff games. His Columbus Blue Jackets were swept by the Detroit Red Wings in 2009. He vowed this year would be different.

"Since we made the playoffs, I was like, 'OK, this new part of my hockey career is gonna be there,'" Voracek said. "I'm excited for it. Especially after we beat Pittsburgh, that was an exciting feeling. To win that first series, now we're more and more hungry every game. You want it so bad, it's unbelievable."

Voracek has been one of the more consistent performers the Flyers have had in the postseason. In 10 games, he has two goals and eight assists. He had only one assist in his four playoff games as a Blue Jacket, but the three years in between have really allowed his game to mature.

Perhaps the best example of that was when the Flyers entrusted him with the opportunity to run the point on the first power-play unit.

"When they told me, I was pretty happy because you have the puck more and when you have a great quarterback like Kimmo [Timonen], it's always a good thing," Voracek said. "I've been playing it for the last 40 or 50 games, so we all know where every guy is going on the ice."

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Utley working out with Phillies

Second baseman swinging a bat, taking ground balls
Hopes for rehab assignment Lee returns to club

Cliff Lee is coming back. Chase Utley still needs a few weeks, hopefully.

Lee, who has been on the disabled list since April 19 with a strained oblique, threw a bullpen session this past Saturday and didn't feel any pain. Lee will return to his spot in the rotation Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Utley visited the Phillies' clubhouse during the weekend. He'll eventually report to Florida for a rehab assignment. When?

"Once my body tells me it's ready to go 100 percent, that's when I'm going to go down to Clearwater," Utley said.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Utley

Utley, who is on the DL with chondromalacia in his left knee, spent the past month working with a physical therapist in Phoenix. Utley said he doesn't feel any pain when he swings a bat, but he's not quite comfortable playing the field right now. He'll stay with the Phillies and continue to take ground balls until he's healthy enough for Clearwater.

"I was doing some baseball things in Arizona, but there's nothing like being with the team and on the field on a daily basis," Utley said. METRO

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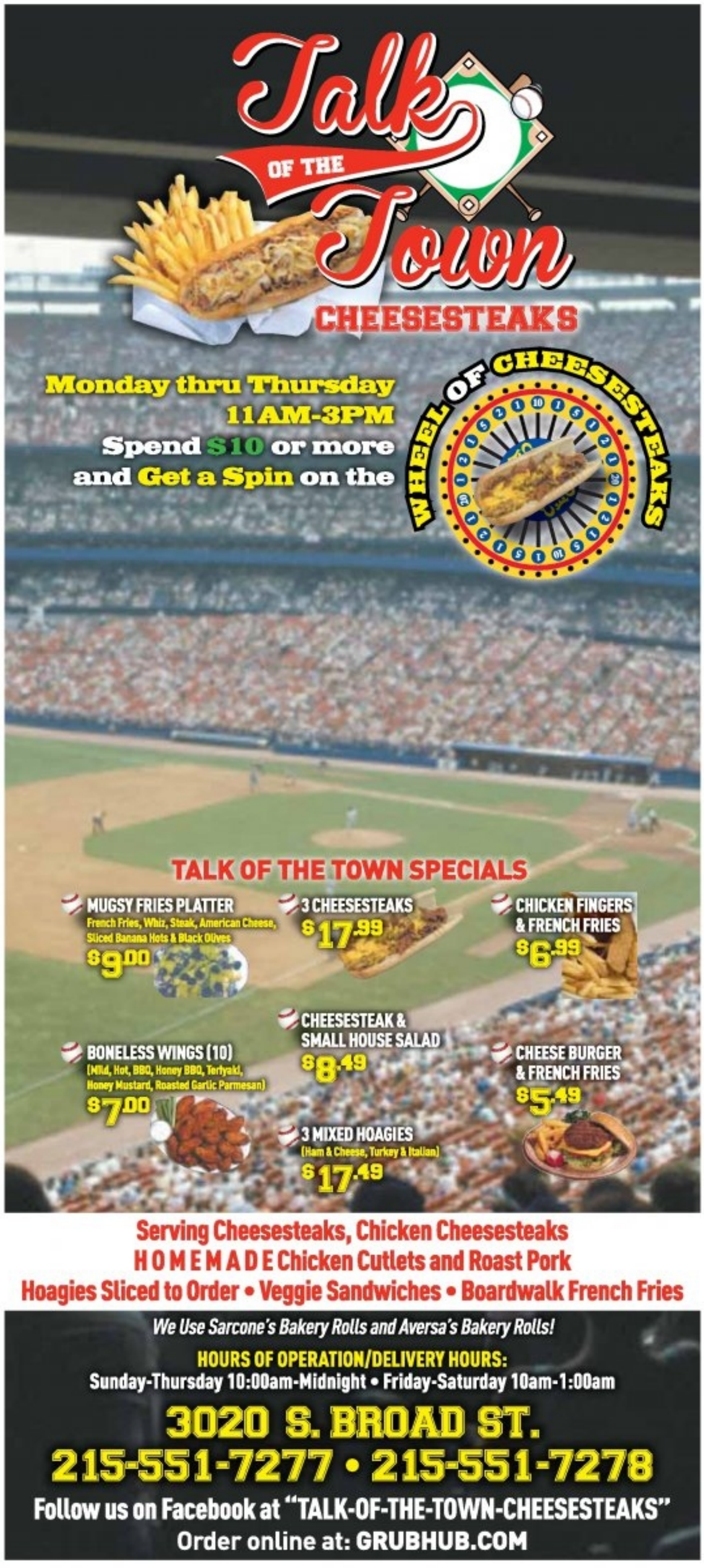
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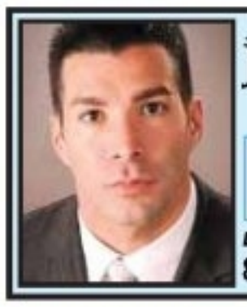

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motoring

Russia says goodbye to a car and an era

REUTERS

▶ An undated publicity handout shows an AvtoVAZ Lada Klassica (Classic) 2101.

Russia is ending its long love affair with a car that was once prized by the nation but has come to symbolize the decline of its automobile industry and, for some, the country itself.

The decision by state car maker AvtoVAZ to halt production of the last models in the Lada Classic series this year after four decades is more than just the end of the road for an automobile.

Although the outmoded box-like series of family cars is ridiculed abroad, many Russians consider it a last link with an era when they believed the Soviet Union could win the Cold War, and see its demise as a sign of Russia's diminished status.

"It's a case of national affection. For many years in Soviet times the Classic was an unattainable dream for many men. It was very hard to get hold of one and people waited in queues for years," said Vyacheslav Lysakov, a member of parliament and the head of a motorists' association, Free Choice.

"A lot of things from that [Soviet] time have already gone and the Classic was one of the remaining links."

AvtoVAZ halted production last month of the seventh model in the series, the 2107, leaving only one Classic in production — the 2104 station wagon. The company said it was also "time to say goodbye" to that model at the end of this year.

Lada is often the butt of jokes abroad because of its square shape and reputation for breaking down when you least want it to. One joke asks: How do you double the value of a Lada? Answer: By filling the tank.

Jeremy Clarkson, host of the British TV car show Top Gear, memorably called the Lada 2107 "simply the worst car ever." Style-conscious young Russians would not be seen dead in one.

But many middle-aged and elderly Russians regret the Classic's passing and see bad omens for the future.

"It was the best-designed car in the world. You won't see a more beautiful car," Alexander Fyodorov, a 65-year-old architect, said as he strolled across Moscow's Red Square.

"Russia has gone off course since then. The Russian auto industry has been destroyed. I blame it on 12 years of Putin," he said, gesturing towards the red walls and golden domes of the Kremlin where Russia's long-term ruler, Vladimir Putin, will start a new six-year term as president on May 7. **REUTERS**

Downhill

Times are tough for Russian carmakers even though France's Renault and Japan's Nissan will take control of AvtoVAZ under a deal with state company Russian Technologies.

Lada sales fell 15 percent year on year in the last quarter and AvtoVAZ is recalling nearly 100,000 new Ladas because of technical faults, including 70,000 Lada Kalinas, a model Putin promoted by driving it across Siberia in 2010.

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In a study published in the Royal Society journal Interface, Oxford University researchers David Porter and Fujia Chen examine the structure of silkworm cocoons, which are extremely light and tough, with properties that could inspire advanced materials for use in protective helmets and lightweight armor.

"Silkworm cocoons have evolved a remarkable range of optimal structures and properties to protect moth pupae from many different natural threats," Porter and Chen said in their paper.

Their research could lead to lightweight armor that dissipates rather than deflects the particular components of a blast that do the most damage to the human body — much like crumple zones in modern cars or sound-absorbing sonar tiles that make submarines harder to detect.

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▶ Silkworms

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▶ Squid

Wired for sound

High-tech clothing is an area researchers hope to exploit with findings unveiled in the journal Advanced Materials. They have made the "most transparent, lightweight and flexible material ever for conducting electricity." The material, based on graphene, a form of carbon just one atom thick but 100 times stronger than steel, could accelerate the creation of clothing with embedded devices like mobile phones and MP3 players.

Now you see me, now you don't

Scientists have also created artificial muscles in the laboratory that mimic the color-changing ability of squid and zebrafish and could eventually be used in camouflaging "smart clothes."

- Researchers at the University of Bristol in the U.K. created soft and stretchy artificial muscles based on specialist cells called "chromatophores" that are found in some fish and reptiles. They contain pigments which give these animals the ability to change color.
- "We have taken inspiration from nature's designs and exploited the same methods to turn our artificial muscles into striking visual effects," said Jonathan Rossiter, lead author of the study, which was published Wednesday in the Institute of Physics journal Bioinspiration and Biomimetics.
- The Bristol scientists say their camouflaging technology could also be used to regulate the temperature of the wearer at the flick of a switch.
- Zebrafish can pump pigmented fluid from under their skin to the skin's surface — a process Rossiter and his colleagues have been able to mimic in artificial muscles in the lab.

US, German automakers agree on fast charging system

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▶ Charge 'er up.

Seven automakers, including General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co., have agreed to adopt a fast-charging system that can charge electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids in as little as 15 minutes.

The group's goal is to make charging an electrified car as simple as filling a gas tank. Chrysler Group LLC is the latest automaker to join the consortium, which also includes members from Volkswagen AG and its luxury Audi brand, Daimler AG, Porsche and BMW.

The ability to quickly charge cars like GM's Chevrolet Volt and Ford's Focus Electric is crucial to making them more popular among consumers, said Mike Tinskey, associate director of vehicle electrification for Ford, the No. 2 U.S. automaker.

The charging method championed by Ford and others in the group will be showcased at a electric vehicle conference in Los Angeles next week, the automakers said in a press release.

But the approach supported by Ford and others is not compatible with the technology already used by Japanese automakers.

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